

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-12. (canceled)

Claim 13. (original): An apparatus for comparative viewing of an undercarriage of a vehicle to detect defects or anomalies in components thereof comprising:

an infrared camera mounted in an enclosure positioned beneath a vehicle undercarriage for capturing thermal images of selected portions of said undercarriage within the field of view of said camera;

one or more infrared image reflectors mounted in said camera field-of-view so disposed as to permit said camera to capture two spaced apart thermal images for transmission to said viewing apparatus; and

a viewing apparatus disposed remotely from said enclosure for visually displaying side-by-side thermal infrared images to permit comparison of said images of undercarriage components within the field-of-view of said camera.

Claim 14. (currently amended): The apparatus of claim [[14]] 13 wherein said viewing apparatus comprises a computer.

Claim 15. (currently amended): The apparatus of claim [[15]] 14 wherein said computer controls selected functions of said camera.

Claim 16. (currently amended): The apparatus of claim [[15]] 13 wherein said computer performs thermal image processing.

Claim 17. (currently amended): The apparatus of Claim [[14]] 13 wherein said camera and said infrared image reflectors are disposed in such a manner as to allow said camera to observe a left and right side of the vehicle's front or rear tire and brake assembly in a side-by-side manner.

Claim 18. (currently amended): The apparatus of claim ~~[[14]]~~ 13 wherein said one or more infrared image reflectors comprise a material selected from a list consisting essentially of aluminum, stainless steel, polished mild steel, copper, a first surface mirror, or any combination thereof.

Claim 19. (currently amended): The apparatus of claim ~~[[14]]~~ 13 wherein said one or more infrared image reflectors are adjustable.

Claim 20. (original): A method for detecting defects or anomalies in the running gear of a vehicle comprising the steps of:

positioning an infrared camera at a location so that a vehicle can pass over the camera;

positioning one or more infrared image reflectors within the field-of-view of the camera so as to enable the camera to capture the thermal image of two spaced apart vehicular components;

adjusting the field-of-view of the one or more infrared image reflectors and camera so as to encompass left and right side running gear;

transmitting the thermal images to a viewing apparatus; and

simultaneously displaying the thermal images from each side running gear so as to permit comparison of the heat characteristics thereof.

Claim 21. (currently amended): The method of claim ~~[[22]]~~ 20 wherein the step of adjusting the field-of-view comprises adjusting the field-of-view of the one or more infrared image reflectors and camera so as to encompass left and right side brake components.

Claim 22. (currently amended): The method of claim ~~[[22]]~~ 21 further comprising the step of providing a computer.

Claim 23. (currently amended): The method of claim ~~[[23]]~~ 22 further comprising the step of performing thermal image processing with the computer.

Claim 24. (currently amended): The method of claim ~~[[25]]~~ 22 further comprising the step of performing visual image analysis with the computer.

Claim 25. (currently amended): The method of claim [[25]] 22 further comprising the step of controlling selected functions of the camera with the computer.

Claim 26. (new): The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said computer performs image analysis.

Claim 27. (new): The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said one or more infrared image reflectors comprise one or more shapes selected from the list consisting of a substantially parabolic surface, a substantially flat surface, a substantially convex surface, and combinations thereof.

Claim 28. (new): The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said one or more infrared image reflectors have a vertical field of view of at least 45 degrees above horizontal.

Claim 29. (new): The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said one or more infrared image reflectors have a horizontal field of view of at least 90 degrees centered on an axis orthogonal to an axis of said camera positioned in a horizontal plane.

Claim 30. (new): The method of claim 22 further comprising the step of simultaneously displaying comprises simultaneously displaying an image with the use of at least one computer.

Claim 31. (new): The method of claim 20 wherein the step of positioning one or more infrared image reflectors comprises positioning one or more infrared image reflectors having at least one substantially flat surface.

Claim 32. (new): The method of claim 20 wherein the step of positioning one or more infrared image reflectors comprises positioning one or more infrared image reflectors having at least one substantially parabolic surface.

Claim 33. (new): The method of claim 20 wherein the step of positioning one or more infrared image reflectors comprises positioning one or more infrared image reflectors having at least one substantially convex surface.

Claim 34. (new): The method of claim 20 wherein the adjusting step comprises adjusting the field-of-view of the one or more infrared image reflectors and camera so as to encompass left and right side running gear.

Claim 35. (new): The method of claim 20 wherein the adjusting step comprises adjusting the one or more infrared image reflectors such that a horizontal field of view of at least 90 degrees centered on an axis orthogonal to the camera axis in the horizontal plane is achieved.